

Remarks

Claims 1-28, as amended, are pending in this application. In the Office Action dated March 31, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 13, 14 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as not particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming Applicant's invention. The Examiner objected to claims 1-20 and 26-28. The Examiner objected to the specification and figures. The Examiner allowed claims 21-25. The Examiner indicated that the remaining claims presented allowable subject matter. Applicant believes each of these matters has been addressed by amendments in this paper. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration in light of the amendments herein provided.

Claims 1, 13, 14 and 17-20 were amended to bring claim terms into greater consistency and to fix claim dependencies. These amendments are not intended to narrow or restrict claim scope or to substantively affect the meaning of the amended claims.

Applicants note that, although the Examiner's summary indicates that claims 26-28 were objected to, no grounds for objection were given in the Detailed Action. A careful examination of these claims could not determine a basis for an objection.

Numerous changes have been made to the specification and drawings. Applicant does not believe that any of these changes constitutes new matter.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his careful review of the claims and specification. The undersigned has carefully reviewed the specification and drawings and believes the amendments presented herein correct all defects noted by the Examiner.

Claims 1-28, as amended, are pending in this application. Applicant believes this case is in appropriate condition for allowance and respectfully requests that this case be passed to issuance.

A check in the amount of \$930 is enclosed to cover the Petition fee. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978 -- a duplicate of this paper is enclosed for that purpose.

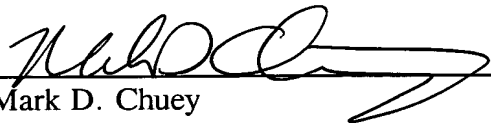
S/N: 10/075,836
Reply to Office Action of March 31, 2003

Atty Dkt No. BII0114PUS (R408-MA/NE)

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any aspect of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 29, 2003

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Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheet Showing Drawing Changes

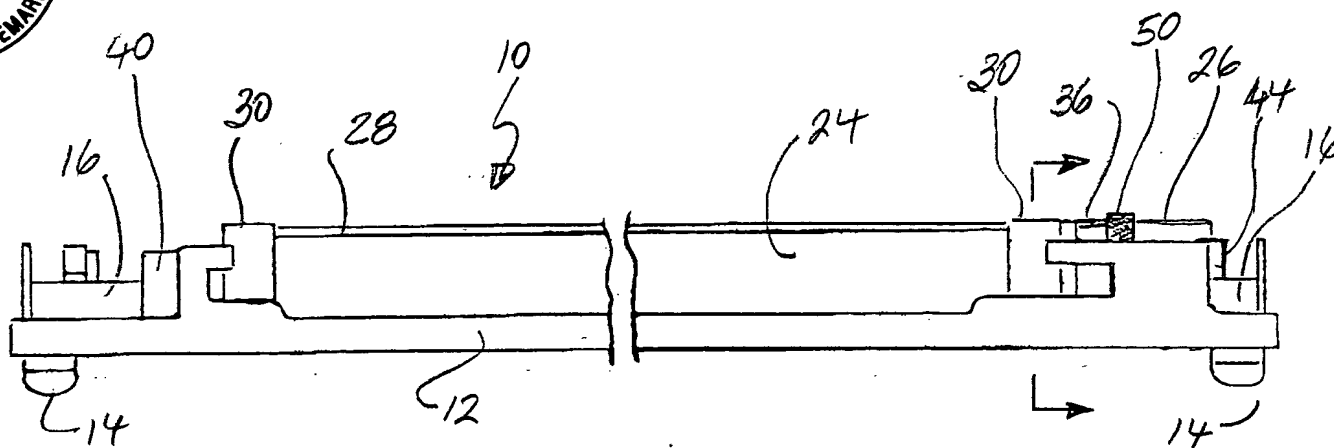
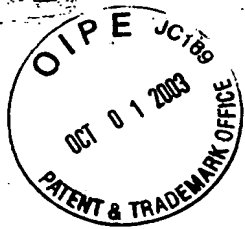


Fig 1

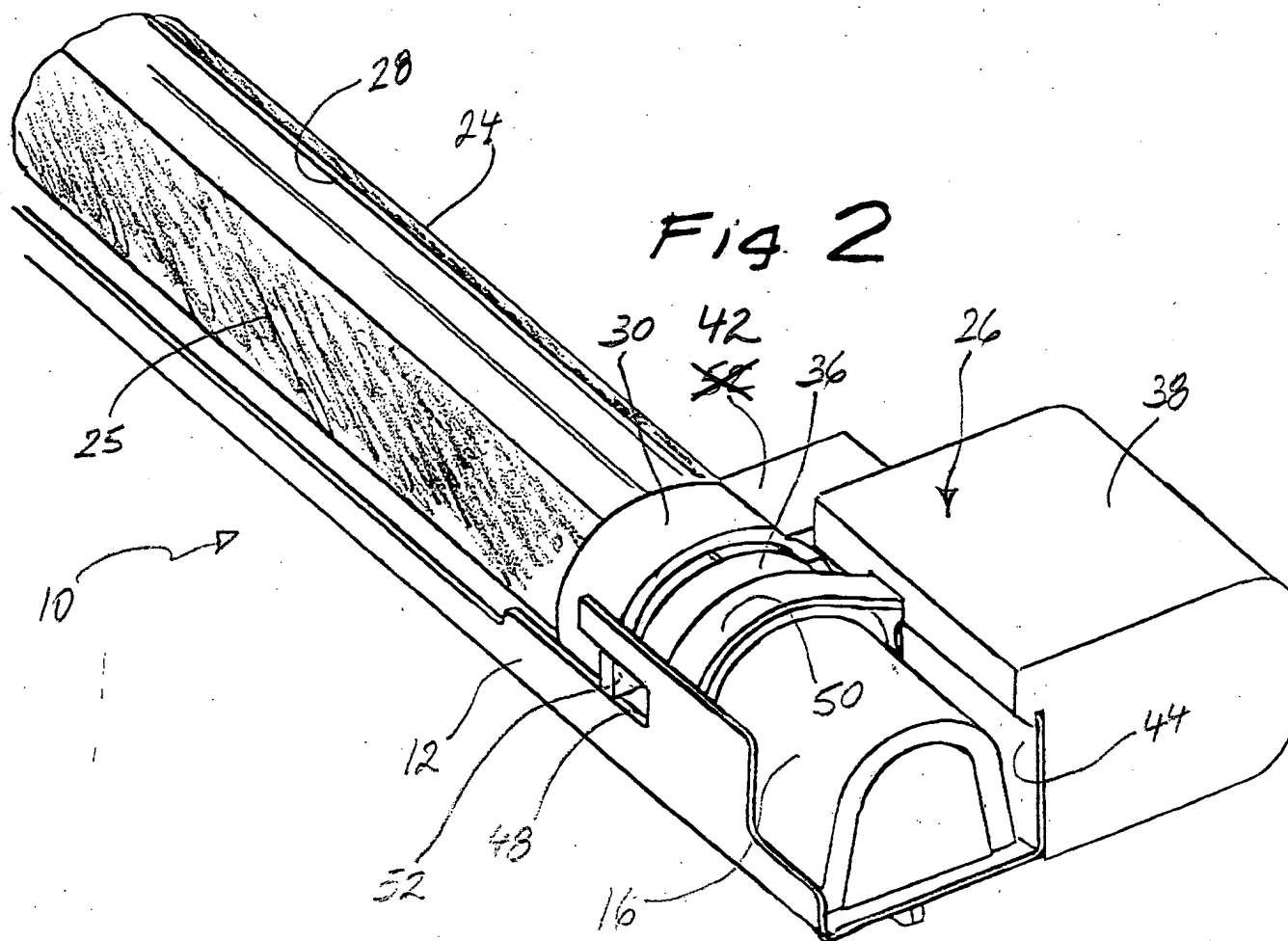
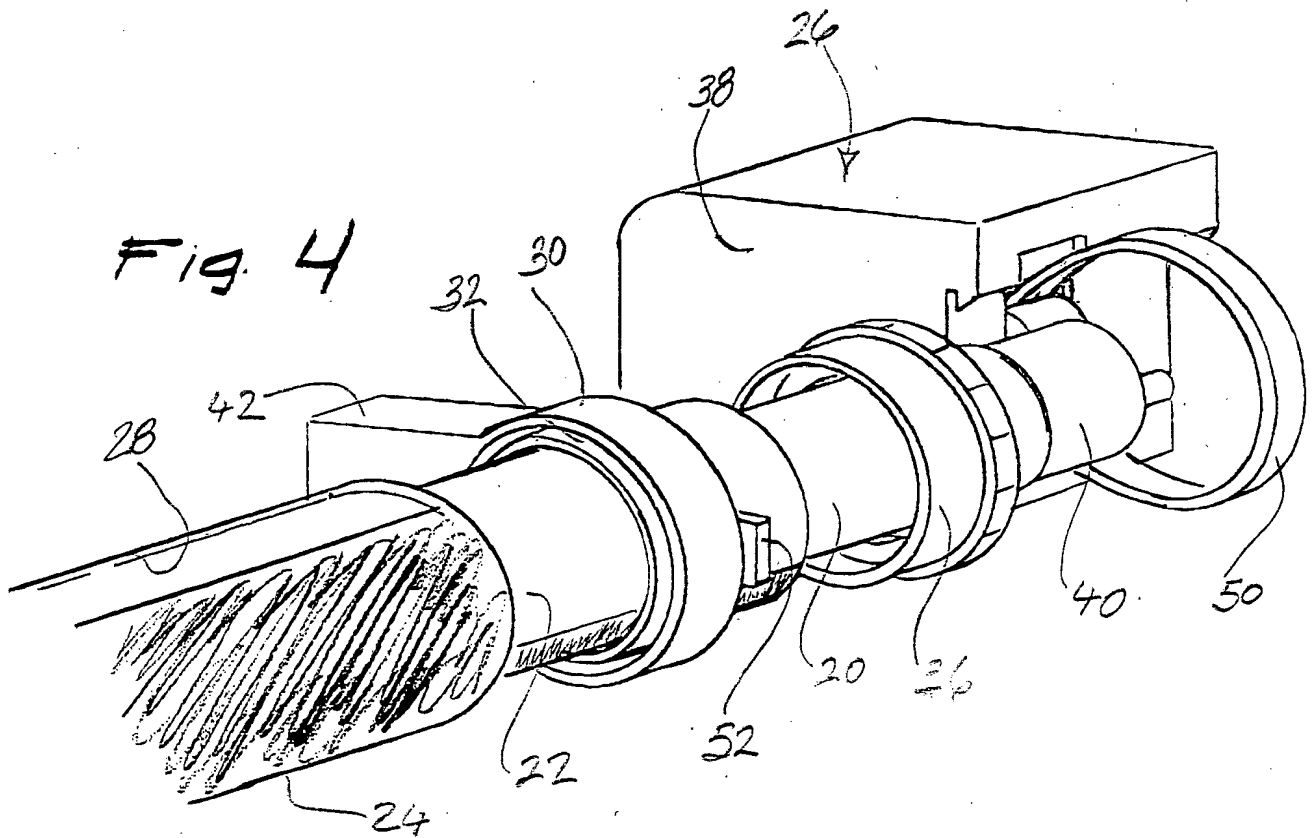
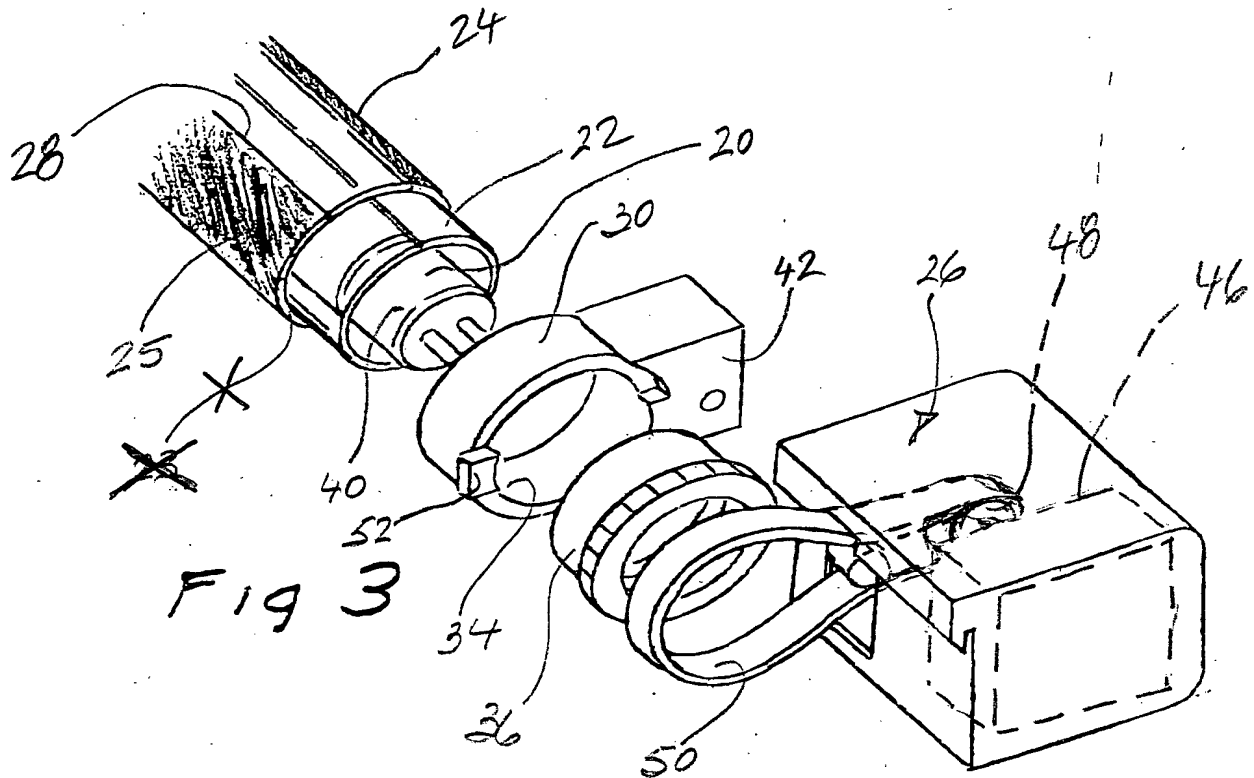


Fig 2



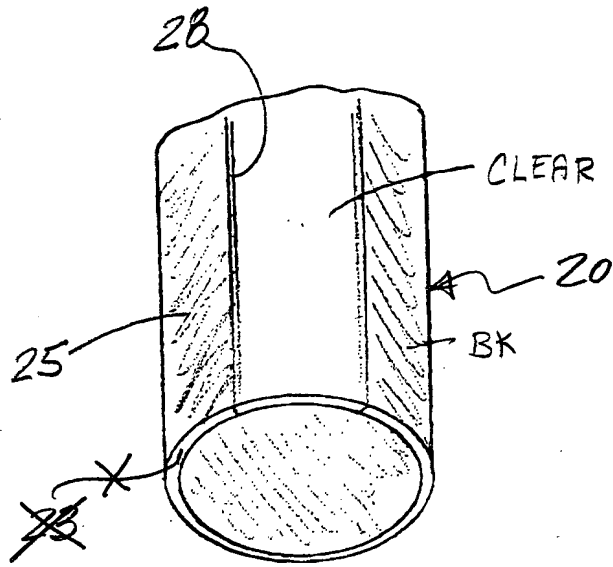


Fig. 7

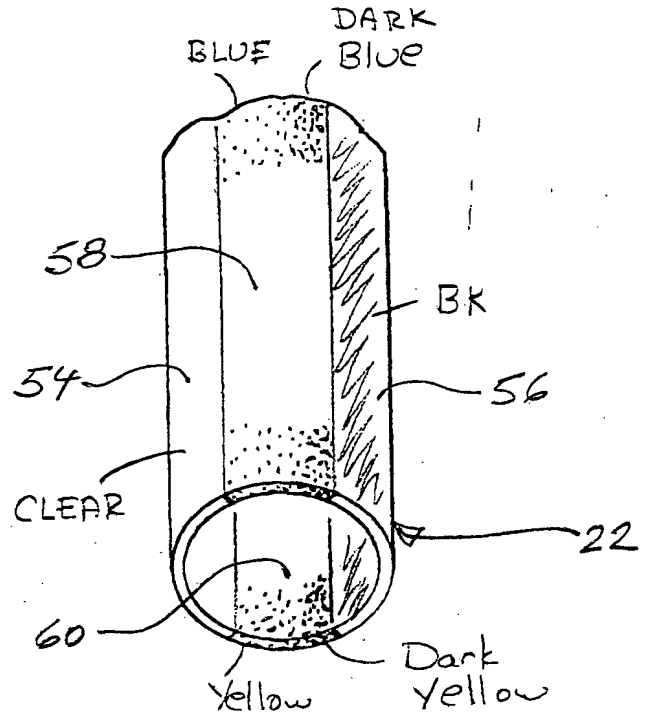


Fig. 8

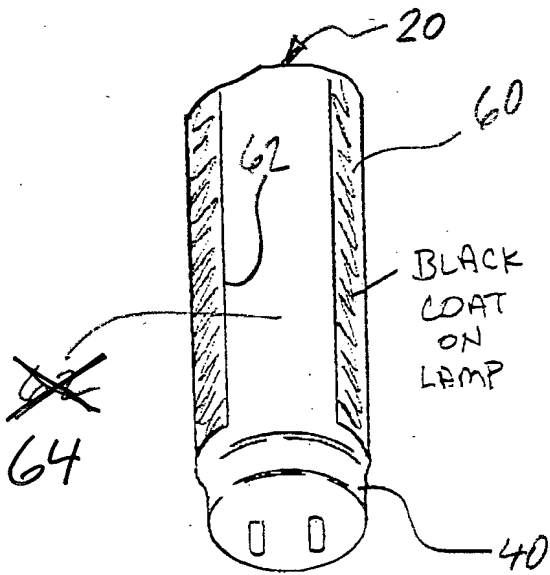


Fig. 9

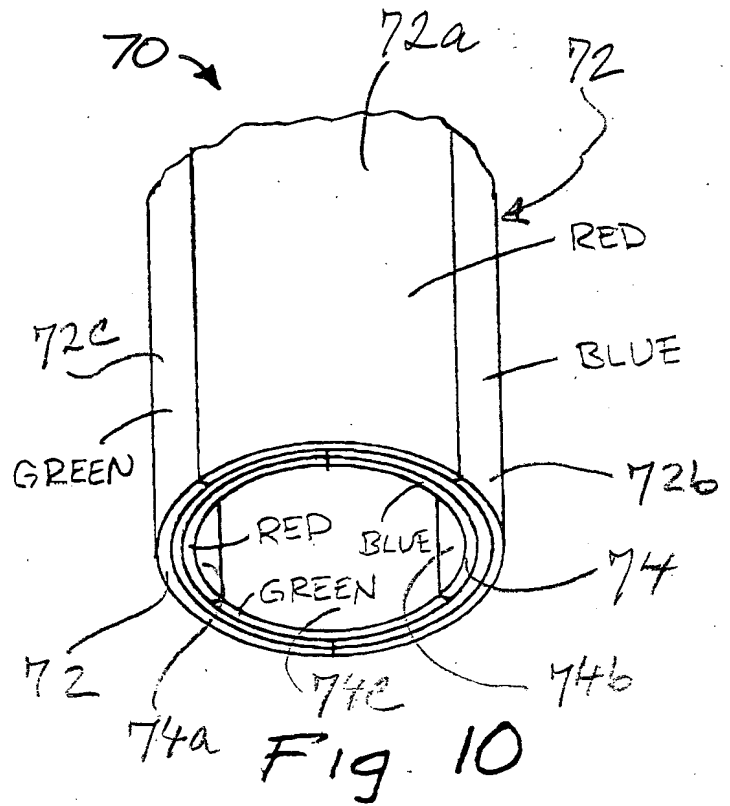
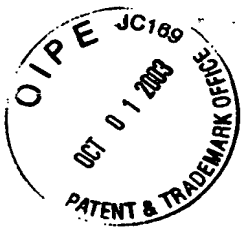


Fig. 10



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Fig. 14

